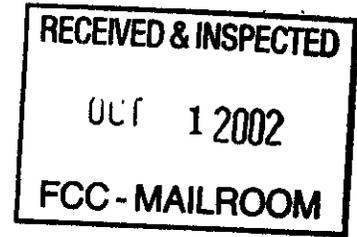


Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554



In the Matter of)
)
Request for Review of)
Decision of the Universal Service)
Administrative Company by)
)
New Hope Telephone Company)
)
Federal-State Joint Board on Universal)
Service)
)
Changes to the Board of Directors of the)
National Exchange Carriers Association, Inc.)

CC Docket No. 96-45 ✓

CC Docket No. 97-21

ORDER

Adopted: September 30, 2002

Released: October 1, 2002

By the Telecommunications Access Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau:

1. New Hope Telephone Company filed the above-captioned request for review of a decision issued by the Universal Service Administrative Company (Administrator).¹ Pursuant to section 54.719(c) of the Commission's rules,² this request seeks review of the Administrator's decision to deny New Hope Telephone Company's request for refund of contributions paid.

2. The Commission's rules generally provide that the Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau), or the Commission if the decision involves novel questions of fact, law, or policy, must take action in response to a request for review of an Administrator decision within ninety days.³ The Commission's rules further provide that the Bureau may extend the time period for up to ninety days, and that the Commission may also extend the time period.⁴

¹ Contributor Appeal of New Hope Telephone Company, filed July 3, 2002 (Request for Review).

² 47 C.F.R. § 54.719(c) (providing that any person aggrieved by an action taken by a division of the Administrator may seek review from the Commission).

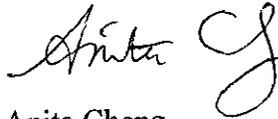
³ 47 C.F.R. § 54.724(a), (b).

⁴ *Id.*

3. Additional time is needed to review the issues presented. Accordingly, we extend by ninety days the deadline by which the Bureau or Commission must take action regarding the above-captioned Request for Review to December 30, 2002.

4. Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED, pursuant to authority delegated under sections 0.91, 0.291, and 54.724 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.91, 0.291, and 54.724, that the time period for taking action on the Request for Review filed by New Hope Telephone Company on July 3, 2002 IS EXTENDED BY ninety days.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION



Anita Cheng
Assistant Chief, Telecommunications Access Policy Division
Wireline Competition Bureau